

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 26, 2014

MEETING

Roll Call: Selectman Cutler - Present. Selectman Patacchiola – Present. Chairman Furmaniuk – Present. At 7:02 pm, Chairman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order.

Selectman Cutler moved the motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes for March 12, 2014. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. **VOTE:** Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.

Appoint Peter
Levesque as Police
Officer

Upon the recommendation of Chief Gary Chamberland, and the support of the review panel, Selectman Cutler moved the motion to appoint and swear in Peter Levesque as an officer of the law in the Town of Sterling. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. **VOTE:** Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.

Monthly Police
Report

Chief Gary Chamberlain presented his monthly police report for February 2014. The following was included in that report.

Personnel, Training and Equipment:

- Hiring process continued including interviews with candidates.
- Officer Scott Johnson completed an Armorers Course on our recently acquired handguns.
- Officers are completing First Responder Classes.
- Dispatchers are completing the Power Phone Training Classes.
- Chief attended Legal Update training at Boylston Academy

Community Interaction:

- Working on setting up a **Drug Take Back Initiative 26 April** at the Sterling Police Station. 10Am – 2 PM.
- Setting up an electronic means of submitting crash reports to the RMV on line.
- Crash reports, reported electronically to RMV, will be available on-line to interested parties.

General Police Business:

- Annual report completed and submitted
- Meetings with finance and capital committee completed
- Meeting with personal board on grading positions was attended, specifically the Animal Control Position.
- Dog licensing is currently underway all dog owners should be in the process of licensing their dogs with the Town Clerk.
- Two arrests during the month, one for a warrant and one OUI.
- There were thirty (30) Motor Vehicle Stops
- Fourteen (14) crashes were investigated during the month. Two at Chocksett and Leominster one was significant.

NEADS 5K
Run/Walk

NEADS – National Education for Assistance Dog Services, Inc. requested the approval of a 5K Run/walk on Saturday May 17, 2014. The Event will begin at 8:30 at the 8 Point Sportsmen's Club and end at the NEADS campus on Redemption Rock trail. The organization has been very receptive to safety suggestions from the Sterling Police and police detail will be provided. Selectman Patacchiola moved a motion to approve the 5K Run/Walk for May 17, 2014. Selectman Cutler 2nd.

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	<p>VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Pain in the Mass Tour Bicycling Event:	<p>Peter Coveneau requested approval of the Town for a cycling event that will travel through Sterling on September 20, 2014. The name of the Tour is the Pain in the Mass Tour and the proceeds will benefit the HOME AWAY Fund, which provides support to families of epileptic children who are being treated at Children's Hospital and UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center. As many as 500 cyclists will traverse the Town, entering Sterling from West Boylston via Route 12 to Meetinghouse Hill Road, to Rowley Road into Princeton. Chief Chamberland advised the board that since it is not a competitive race, it can't be disallowed. However, the Board strongly cautioned the organization that they must be in touch with the Police Department to address safety as well as other issues that have plagued the Town, during other cycling events. VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to support the Pain in the Mass Fund raising, cycling event for September 20, 2014. Chairman Furmaniuk 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Abstained. Motion carried.</p>
Park St. Closure during Farmer's Market	<p>Mike Pineo and Dawn Hartnett addressed the Board to request that Park Street be closed to traffic during the Farmer's market. They reported that there are plans to expand the Farmers market by increased participation and vendors. Therefore, they are concerned for the safety of patrons and children. They requested that Park Street be closed to traffic on Fridays from 2:30pm – 7:00pm, from May 16 until the end of October. After discussion, Selectman Cutler moved the motion to close Park Street to traffic on Fridays from 2:30pm – 7:00pm, from May 16 until the end of October. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Municipal Light Plant Energy Grant	<p>Sean Hamilton and Jeff Ritter addressed the Board. They requested that an Energy Committee be formed in order to apply for a State grant. This grant money may be awarded to enable the Town to participate in opportunities for expanded energy efficiency and renewable energy resources in the community such as: community solar projects, energy efficiency programs, etc.</p> <p>The charge of the Board will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elect Committee chair and other committee officers.• Assess the energy efficiency potential in town buildings through site visits / energy audits.• Develop an implementation plan for the installation of energy efficiency measures identified in the building audits.• Develop a Town Building Energy Usage Database through the MassEnergyInsight.• Evaluate the opportunities for expanded energy efficiency and renewable energy resources in the community such as: community solar projects, energy efficiency programs, etc.• Review the adoption of building codes which encourage higher levels of energy efficiency in all new construction• Assess the need for the coordination of the Town Planning Committee and zoning by-laws that may assist in or remove barriers to the development of renewable energy resources, or the manufacture of energy efficiency or renewable products. <p>The Grant application is due on April 4th, 2014. After discussion, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved the motion to approve the establishment of the Energy Committee with the members as follows: Matthew Stelmach, Sean Hamilton, Joseph Curtin, Jeffrey Ritter, William Tuttle, and Thomas Rutherford-Alternate. Chairman Furmaniuk 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried. An addendum was added:</p> <p>VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved the motion to approve the establishment of the Energy Committee with the members as follows: Matthew Stelmach, Sean Hamilton, Joseph Curtin, Jeffrey Ritter, William Tuttle, Thomas Rutherford-Alternate. The chairman of the Board is authorized to sign for</p>

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	<p>the Board in matters regarding the grant application. Chairman Furmaniuk 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried</p>
Proposed changes to Personnel Bylaw	<p>The Personnel Board, addressed the Board of Selectmen to update them on the progress regarding the Classification and Compensation aspects of non-union members within the Personnel Bylaws. They have reviewed all, Town held positions and evaluated the job requirements of each, in order to reclassify jobs into categories of similar independence and responsibility level. The previous 11 grade levels have been condensed to 6 grade levels. During the process, appeals from Department Heads were heard and adjustments granted. The Human Resource Administrator conducted a Salary Survey in order to ascertain fair and consistent compensation. It is the intention of the Personnel Board to change the Personnel Bylaws to reflect the newly established Classifications and Compensation. They intend to include personnel policy within a proposed Employee Handbook. These proposed changes have been approved by the Town's Labor Counsel. The Board requested that the Personnel Board return on April 9th to discuss implementation of these changes.</p>
Proposed FY15 Budget	<p>Bob Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the Finance Committee's recommended Fiscal year 2015 budget. Their recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● "Tap" Spending Breaks<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Minimize new services– Protect town assets– Review existing services● Reduce reliance on Capital Fund<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Fund NEW debt and leases from Raise and Appropriate– Fund EXISTING debt and leases from Capital Fund● Strengthen Capital and Stabilization Funds<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Capital Fund + Stabilization Fund should equal 7.5% Town Budget
Discussion of Town Meeting Warrants	<p>The Finance Committee voted their recommendations for the Town Meeting Articles last evening. These recommendations are not reflected in the draft form of the warrant that was available to the Board. Therefore, they decided to table this issue until April 9th. At that time, they will discuss and vote all articles.</p>
Business and Correspondence	<p><u>Firefighters</u></p> <p>The Sterling Firefighters requested that the Select Board Voluntarily sign an agreement for Voluntary Recognition between the Town of Sterling and the International Association of Firefighters to affiliate for purposes of bargaining. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that they would like a representative of the Fire Department to personally address the Board, in order to answer questions that they may have. A representative of the Sterling Fire Department will be invited to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Sterling National Seasonal Alcohol License</u></p> <p>After discussion, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved the motion to approve the Seasonal Alcohol License for the Sterling National Country Club for 2014. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p><u>One Day Alcohol</u></p> <p>After discussion, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved the motion to approve the one-day alcohol license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for March 29th from noon – 8:00pm. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.</p>

Town Administrator
Update

Dog Licenses

The Town Administrator reported that there was a "SNAFU" regarding the 2014 dog licenses. The current 2014 dog licenses are stamped 2013. They are however, a different shape and color and the Animal Control Officer is aware of the issue. Reordering and reissuing the tags would be a financial burden on the Town Clerk's budget. The Board suggests that the Animal control officer alert surrounding towns to the discrepancy so that, should a Sterling licensed dog be picked up in a neighboring town, the authorities will understand that the license is current for the Town of Sterling.

Interior Painting

The crew from the Sheriff's office will be painting the interior of Butterick Municipal Building. The project will begin as early as March 27th. The free labor will save the Town thousands of dollars.

Update Police Grievance

A Grievance hearing has been scheduled in Springfield in May. Our Town Labor Counsel has been in touch with the Police Labor Council trying to organize a meeting, here in Sterling, to simply settle rather than go into the grievance process.

IT Contract

As the CPO, the Town Administrator will extend the current IT contract, with Stillwater Computer Services for 6 months – from July 1, 2014 – December 31 2014. He recommended to the Board that they appoint an AD HOC committee to be charged with studying the vision and plan implementation for the IT service. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING - Chocksett Rd/Rt 12 Road Project

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2014

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Chocksett School Gymnasium

State project managers will be on site to share drawings and various engineering ideas about this state project, to answer any and all questions and to receive resident's input. The project is scheduled for late summer 2015. Please come and bring your friends, and neighbors.

Adjourn

VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved the motion to Adjourn at 9:27. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried.

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